

House Republican Press Release

October 13, 2005
Press Office: 860-240-8700

Reps. Boucher, Hetherington Decry Delay in Campaign Finance Reform



State Representatives Toni Boucher and John Hetherington sharply criticized the Democrat leadership for refusing to take up Governor M. Jodi Rell's proposal for campaign finance reform. The Governor called the General Assembly into special session on October 11 to address campaign financing. The Democrat majority,

however, would not allow her plan to be considered when Minority Leader Robert Ward attempted to introduce the measure. Instead, on a party line vote, the bill was barred and, by a similar vote, the session was adjourned.

"I am appalled by the arrogance of the majority leadership," Representative Hetherington said. "This is an affront to the Governor and to the people of Connecticut who are rightly demanding reform."

He added, "By ending the special session ordered by the Governor rather than declaring a recess, the Democrats preserve the opportunity to raise money from lobbyists. Members of the General Assembly are not permitted to solicit lobbyists for contributions while the Legislature is in session. To maintain the prohibition, Republicans sought to extend the special session until another session is convened, but the effort was defeated by Democrat opposition."

"When people in office betray their positions of trust, shame on them. When we fail to deal with the causes, shame on us," Hetherington told the House chamber during debate.

Rep. Boucher said, "The state of Connecticut has endured a difficult period of scandal that has seriously undermined the people's trust and credibility in its government. We need to take substantive action to repair the damage that has been done. This Governor has taken every possible opportunity to do just that. The proposals on the table during special session would have gone a long way to affecting real change in campaign fundraising. They would have gone a long way in eliminating lobbyists' financial interest and influence in the legislative process.

I am very disappointed that once again we have taken valuable time away from our jobs and family to adjourn without taking action."

Representative Boucher (R -143) represents most of Wilton and part of Norwalk.
Representative Hetherington (R – 125) represents almost all of New Canaan and the southwest corner of Wilton.